

RCC Students Newsletter

Roxbury Community College

March/April 2004

Volume 2,

START LIVING ALL OVER AGAIN

By: Mussie Worede

Once long ago, I had a joyful life. Now I feel like a candle in the wind. My memories started back to my joyous childhood activities in my Ethiopian village on the playground. Those happy care-free days ended at grade 4. That was the beginning of my life turning upside down.

First, my father passed away. My mother told me that was "the way of life, and to be ready for what comes next." My mother was not able to find employment in Ethiopia. Consequently, she was forced to leave her precious children with relatives and go to the U.S.A.

I was insecure and lonely. My older brother and sister lived with me while my busy aunt checked on us once a week. Two years later my older siblings left to find work and I was left alone with my remaining sister. Come birthdays, holidays, winter, nights, it was hard for us not to be sad.

My friends seemed to have so much more fun than my sister and I. I was born, and grew up in Ethiopia.

My parents were originally from Eritrea. When the border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia commenced, the Ethiopian government told Eritreans to return to Eritrea. Even though I was born and raised in Ethiopia, I could not remain in Ethiopia. The government was willing to use force to deport us back to Eritrea.

Three A.M. one night, military officers and police visited my aunt. She and her entire family were summarily deported. They were not allowed to ready themselves. They took nothing with them but themselves. As many Eritreans were being booted out of Ethiopia, I knew it would soon happen to me. I tried to go to Kenya by plane but was told no Eritreans are allowed to use plane, to exit.

I used a bus to get to the border, but there the Ethiopian military caught me and I was taken to prison. They questioned my nationality. I said I was Ethiopian. After finding out that my background was Eritrean, an officer came up to me and asserted that I was a liar.

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He showed me his police club and machine gun. He was going to return me to Eritrea, after volunteering to beat me up for lying. I said, "Please let me explain. I was born in Ethiopia and grew up in Ethiopia. I feel like I am Ethiopian. Until the war started, to all I was Ethiopian. The war does not change my country." Finally, he understood the situation, but he put me in a military camp jail.

More than 200 Eritreans were arrested and confined at this border jail. Words do not describe what it felt like to be a political prisoner. We decided to escape. The next night more than twelve men escaped the prison. Although it was a fenced – in military camp, it was not hard to escape. Two choices: be alive or die. We had to rescue ourselves. Thank God, I was lucky. I stayed a year in Kenya- and got to the U.S.A. in 2000.

Oh yeah! I started my life all over again. I found my family. I am so happy. I am alive, a survivor of troubles. Life turned out not to be as easy as I expected here in the U.S.A: however, I did find a job in security. I started working weekends and became a fulltime student.

I have to pay my family bills, as my mother cannot work any more. I am the one who covers and cares for the family. I have proven that I never give up. I never will. I stick with things. If I fall or fail, I try again. My troubled past taught me not to give up. This is America. As long as I work hard, I may be what I want to be. So, I try my best.

On my birthdays now, I remember the past and present. I sit in front of the birthday cake, close my eyes, and wish. "I wish, that one day my dream will come true." Wishing so, I remember Martin Luther King Jr. was also a man with a dream. A dream he too, hoped one day would be

successful. I say to myself in a whisper, "Thank God, everything is going to be all right," I sing the song with Bob Marley, loudly and proudly. Until my daydream does come fully true, I continue surviving like a candle in the wind.

That's why I want to attend Roxbury Community College. To make my dreams come true. This is the exact choice and place to make it happen. I wish everyone a fruitful semester and a happy New Year. Peace

By: Mussie Worede, RCC Student

RCC Strategic Planning

On January 23, 2004, Dr. James E. Samels, the President and C.E.O of the Educational Alliance, his assistant Jason Weaver, and Dr. Gomes, President of Roxbury Community College met with the alumni of RCC and the Student Government Association to discuss the future of Roxbury Community College for the next five years.

The meeting was remarkable. We engaged in an exchange of ideas surrounding a commitment that is greater in value than what any of us could imagine. Only God knows to what extent Roxbury Community College will affect the lives of individuals in this community and in the world.

Many of us gave suggestions of how we believed we could improve the college for future students. We discussed ways to develop better lines of communication between the Administration, the Faculty and Students. And we looked at the various possibilities available to Roxbury Community College over the next five years.

By the end of the meeting, Dr. Samels reached at least one notable conclusion. The strategic planning and vision for RCC need not be limited to just 5 years. The future goals and objectives for RCC are critical to the future goals and objectives of many. Dr. Samels expects the 5 year plan for RCC to be restructured to include the next 20 years.

I am pleased that Dr. Gomes is serious about planning and constructing a program of change for RCC to have an even greater impact on our students and on our community.

Abeba Attles
SGA President

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*"A leader with courage and an iron will
is unstoppable and unbeatable."
David Blunt*

Student Government Association is committed to serve the student body. We are committed to create effective communication between the Student Government Association and students. We will be distributing these Newsletters all over the College.

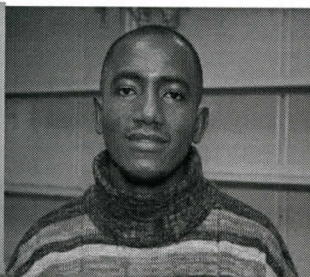
Give us your feedback.

If you have question or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

617-427-0060 Ext. 5003



**Abeba Attles
President**



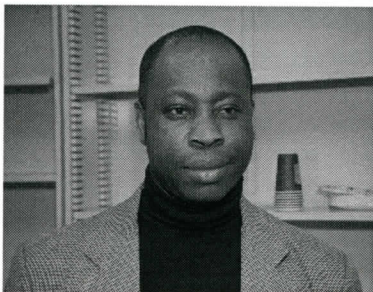
**Andrew Sande
Vice President**



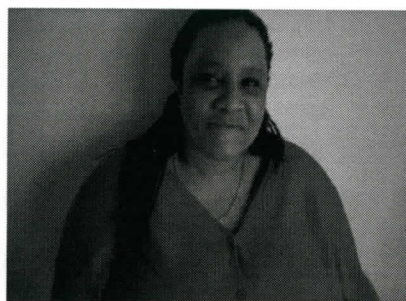
**Linda Medina
Treasurer**



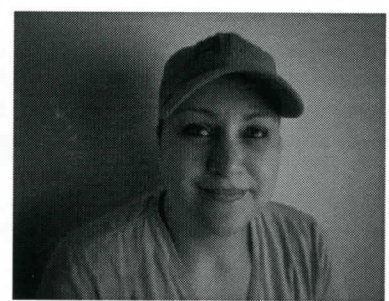
**Danielle Cunningham
Secretary**



**Paul Igboenysei
Student Trustee**



**Trudy Thompkins
Student Representative**



**Ivet Aries
Student Representative**

NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FOR STUDENTS

What is RCC Web Mail?

Web Mail is a web-based email program that can make your life a little easier. And as a student at RCC, you can get a FREE email account for life.

With Web Mail, now you can;

- Read and send e-mail from any Web browser and from anywhere while enjoying your favorite desktop email features like spell-check, address book, and multiple attachments.
- Mail Forwarding: You can have Web Mail forward new mail for a particular user to another address.
- Vacation Support: In case you cannot answer mail due to vacation or other absence, Web Mail can automatically send one notice to each person who sends mail to you.
- Multiple mailboxes: With this feature, you now can manage multiple message sorting by date, subject, and sender, as well as "sent", "draft", and "deleted" mailboxes.
Email Signature: This feature allows you to create your own email signature at the end of all your messages.
- Web-based calendar allows users to keep and store multiple schedules, appointments, task lists, and date reminder information accessible through an intuitive and user-friendly Web interface to increase user efficiency.
- Web Mail also supports for SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) encryption in Web Mail and Web Calendaring protects passwords and content from prying eyes.

. And many more features...

Academic Computing Center

A new academic Computer Center will be opening in Room 351 of Academic Building. The Academic Computing Center will provide a single state of the art site, dedicated for students to access computers for general use. The purpose of the lab is :

- To provide students with a single, dedicated location to access computers for general use, precluding the need to use instructional classrooms.

**If you have questions call
Information Technology at
Extension 5555**

- To alleviate security concerns by staffing the Academic Computing Center with contract or work-study resources
- To provide day, evening, and weekend access for students
- To control printing issues and reduce paper consumption significantly.

The center will be open Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm, Friday 9am-3pm

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Campus Web (CW) is part of the student information system (Jenzabar). It is an interactive tool that provides students, faculty, and staff access to the Student information database. CW can be accessed through any Internet browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator). All the information comes live directly from the College administrative database; thus, everything is automatically up to date. Links and functionality available are dependent upon user permissions. This secure system requires students to obtain a user name and password (typically from their advisor) prior to using it.

We were able to complete the implementation of the CW and put together instructional materials for students for a subsequent pilot in parallel to the conventional registration process during the week of January 5, 2004. The goal was to test the ease of use of the system by students, and to confirm the flow of data into the actual database. A student survey targeting this sample group indicated that they were very satisfied with the online registration and also with the length of time it took to complete the process. Students also indicated that they would definitely use this new process and would recommend it to their peers. And based upon these conclusions, we recommend moving forward with full implementation of the system in the Summer I registration.

When fully adopted by the college community, CW will dramatically change the way we do business at the college. Not only will CW save us time and money, it will also address some of the following admission and registration issues that we have been experiencing:

- New students will be able to apply online
- Returning students will be able to:
 - a) Register for courses
 - b) Add and drop courses
 - c) View their balances due in various accounts

**Free email account to all
students
.....Coming this Spring**

NEWS FROM THE STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES CORNER

It's a new year, and here are a few suggestions for a new start!

- See exercising as good medicine. It works very well for managing stress, high blood pressure, and diabetes, to name a few health conditions.
- Practice hand washing throughout the day. It's the easiest way to keep away common colds and infections.
- Include fruits and vegetables in the diet every day. This keeps the immune system healthy and strong for fighting disease.
- Make time for yourself, every week, doing something special just for you.

OTHER NEWS

- Immunization Forms
They are now due for new, Spring 2004, full-time students.
- Student Accident and Illness Health Insurance Plan
For answers to the most-commonly asked question, go to:
www.state.ma.us/dhcfp
- Student Dental Plan
The plan is offered through the Boston University School of Dental Medicine, and enrollment ends February 27. For more information please contact Student Health Services.
- February 2004 events
 - A Valentine's Day Program is scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2004 and is being presented in collaboration with Student Activities. Get ready for lively HIV/AIDS/STD prevention education.

Let's Welcome back Cheryl Lewis, RN!

Cheryl is a 1991 graduate of our Associate Degree Nursing Program who is presently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree at Emmanuel College. She will be active with Health Promotion Programs in the College this semester, as part of a course requirement. Nurse Hines will serve as her preceptor.

Ruth Hines, RN, CS
Director of Student Health Services
Student Center, Room 313

Student Government is looking for students who are interested in writing articles for the Newsletter:

Contact: Student Government Association

Phone: 617-427-0060 Ext. 5003

Career & Transfer Services Spring 2004 Activities

All activities are held during Activity Block, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, unless otherwise noted.

Each of the activities qualifies as an “outside activity” for College Survival Seminar!

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
<i>March 2004</i>		
Thursday, 03/04	Career Planning for the 2004 Graduate	129 Academic
Tuesday, 03/09	Summer Academic Enrichment Program Open House	129 Academic
Tuesday, 03/23	Joint Admissions and Cross Registration Info Session	129 Academic
Thursday, 03/25	Interviewing Skills Seminar	129 Academic
Thursday, 03/25	Transferring to a 4-year School Workshop	129 Academic
<i>April 2004</i>		
Monday, 04/05	Nursing & Allied Health On-Campus Recruitment 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Room 200 Student Center	
Monday, 04/12	On-Campus Recruitment – All Majors 10:30 AM – 1:30 P.M. Room 200 Student Center	
Tuesday, 04/13	Transferring to a 4-year School Workshop	129 Academic
Thursday, 04/15	Resumes, Cover Letters & Reference Sheets	129 Academic
Tuesday, 04/20	Joint Admissions & Cross Registration Info Session	129 Academic
Thursday, 04/22	Career Planning & Exploration	129 Academic
Thursday, 04/29	Interviewing Skills Seminar	129 Academic

***See Mr. Mark A. Garth, Room 207P to set up an appointment for On-the Spot-Admissions. You must have a completed application, essay, an official copy of your transcript**

Suggested Title: Common Errors That Can Get You, the student, in Trouble

1. **You enrolled in two courses last spring and decided to drop (Add/Drop form) one class due to some personal issues. A few weeks later, you chose to withdraw (Withdrawal form) from the other course (work related issue). How would the Registrars, Business, and Financial Aid offices deal with each case?**
2. **Peter Johnson (fictitious name) registered for two courses last semester but never attended classes. Is he considered withdrawn from these two courses or will he still be charged for them?**
3. **What are you required to do if you receive an Incomplete (I) at the end of a semester?**
4. **Cite two different examples or situations when a student can be administratively withdrawn (WA) from a class.**
5. **Would you to be reimbursed for a course from which you were administratively withdrawn?**
6. **Joyce Perry (fictitious name) has been attending her English Comp. I from day one. She successfully completed that course, but the instructor could not find her name on the class list because Ms. Perry never officially registered for that course. Will she still receive a grade?**

Avoid these common errors; read the college policy!

Editor: Abeba Attles, President, SGA

**Faculty Advisor: Judy Kahalas, Coordinator
of Writing Center**

Advisor: Elizabeth Clark, Director of Student Activities

Photographer: Dale M. Alleyne, IT

Check out these two new services for students.

**Visit Career Services
(207K Academic Building)
to get ID and passwords
necessary to utilize them.**

Looking for a job?

Roxbury Community College and MonsterTRAK have partnered to make more job opportunities available to students and alumni.

Please visit their website at www.monstertrak.monster.com

Exploring career options?

Career Guidance and Information System

DISCOVER® provides guidance and information to help people make important career and educational decisions.

www.act.org/discover